

Name: East 6<sup>th</sup> Street Master Street Plan Amendment

Location: East 6<sup>th</sup> Street from Bond to 9<sup>th</sup> Street extension

Request: Minor Arterial with modified design standards to Collector

Source: Staff

PROPOSAL / REQUEST:

To amend the Master Street Plan changing the classification of East 6<sup>th</sup> Street from Bond to 9<sup>th</sup> Street from a Minor Arterial to a Collector. Minor Arterial provides connections to and through an urban area and their primary function is to provide short distance travel within the urbanized area. The primary function of a Collector Street is to provide a connection from Local Streets to Arterials.

ANALYSIS:

Staff, during a case review, questioned the need for East 6<sup>th</sup> Street to continue to be designated a Minor Arterial. This was due to the recent completion of the 9<sup>th</sup> Street extension as a four-lane divided roadway. When this road was constructed it was added to the Master Street Plan as an Arterial. The through movement for areas to the east is now along the new road and on to the freeway and points west. The segment of East 6<sup>th</sup> Street no longer functions as the primary conduit from the east to the freeway and points west.

This portion of East 6<sup>th</sup> Street, while a Minor Arterial on the Plan, has a reduced design standard of 70-foot right-of-way with four-lanes and additional at major intersections. A Collector design standard is 60-foot right-of-way with 36-feet of pavement for three lanes or two-lanes and parking. Currently 6<sup>th</sup> Street has a 60 foot-right-way with 30 feet of pavement from Bond to Fletcher and 36 feet of pavement from Fletcher to 9<sup>th</sup> Street. This segment of 6<sup>th</sup> Street is built with curb and gutter in place.

The zoning along this section is primarily R-4, two-family residential (duplex) with a Land Use Plan designation of Residential Medium Density. There is a little I-2, Light Industrial zoning on the east and west ends south of 6<sup>th</sup> Street and two small areas of C-3 General Commercial Zoning. On the north side of 6<sup>th</sup> Street midway is a park with PR, Park zoning. In addition there is an elementary school at the east and on the north side of 6<sup>th</sup> Street and a Little Rock School District distribution facility adjacent to the park north of 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

The major east-west movement is no longer along 6<sup>th</sup> Street since the construction of the 9<sup>th</sup> Street extension. 6<sup>th</sup> Street functions as a connection to 9<sup>th</sup> Street and to Downtown to the west. This is more in the character of a Collector. With the Elementary school and local park along the north of 6<sup>th</sup> Street, it would be more desirable to not encourage large volumes of heavy traffic, including trucks, on this segment of 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The street should serve the neighborhood and as an access to the arterial system of roadways serving the city and region.

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMENTS:

Notices were sent to the East Little Rock Neighborhood Association. Letters were sent to approximately 22 property owners along this segment of 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Staff has received several informational calls from area property owners as a result of the mailing.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff believes the change is appropriate.

---

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:

(DECEMBER 12, 2013)

The item was placed on the consent agenda for approval. By a vote of 8 for, 0 against, 2 absent and 1 vacant position the consent agenda was approved.